

shown by the experience of Buffalo. If the city are not so true that the pavements in that city as they would have selected to heavy traffic. The case of Rochester, but it is a true that they are laid on an ordinary foundation, which your correspondents says is not the case in Burlington bricks, at least in the eyes of the shipping layman. The other side of the coin is the small size of the bricks, detracts in no appreciable degree from the general smoothness of the CHANNING ELLERY

New-York, August 28, 1886.

THE ABSURDITY OF THE "RACE WAR"
NO DANGER WHATEVER THAT THE NEGROES
THE SOUTH WILL EVER WIPE THE WHITES
OFF THE FACE OF THE LAND.
To the Editor of The Tribune.
Sir: The fear of the negro is the stalking spirit
South. At every turn one sees and hears
evidences of this apprehension of something to
and unthinking—this anticipation of something to
London like to, to

never has happened, and it never can happen in this section of our United States." It is to be noticed by our astute observer that the newspapers raise this cry of "race war" with great regularity—at election times. Trivial events are magnified to enormous proportions; trifling instances of black insubordination are inflated to such a degree that a feeling spreads of gloom and timidity among the white voters, and the timid readers who have no means of voting are neatly adjusted wires behind the political curtain. When Election Day arrives, the voter, from a cause or another—drops his ballot with a firmly trembling resolve that the "nigger" shall be kept in order, and with a renewed sense of the importance of suppressing all these latest indications of the "strepituousness" of the negro of which the voter has just read.

"Negro dominant" is the political conjure word and warcry of every important election. One would suppose that common-sense would be common to the people with the negro, and having as intimate knowledge of the characteristics of the colored race as that would give them, would long since have shown the sophistries of the political alarmists. But as distance is necessary to get the correct proportions of things, so in this case the judgment of an outsider may be more reliable than that of the people most concerned.

South, having taken up

A new-comer to the South, many things of which a visitor has no knowledge whatever, and his impressions will probably be in this order: He is first astonished at the number of negroes in the cities of the South; they seem far to outnumber the whites, and in many places they do. Observing this is so, he is amazed—judging by a Northern standard—at the deferential, humble and obsequious manners of the older ones among the big people, and the quietly respectful airs of the young generation. Next he realizes the injustice of the laws as applied to negroes in the South, the excesses and punishments, and the absence of any successful legal protection when they are only suspected (if that often for no reason) of crimes. This, with the plain proof of the almost total extinction of negro vote in the National polls, the labor that requires of the colored man for little more than the wages paid the white man, the amount of servility demanded by the employer, and the amount of abuse given by him—all these observations lead to the reasonable conclusion that the Southern negro is timorous and cowardly to the last degree.

A further fact which very soon discloses itself is that the negro has no organizing ability. The absence of social or political consciousness among the masses of the colored man is proof enough of this; reason of it, no doubt, is more because of the emotional nature, which fosters the feeling than the logic of education. Even among those who are educated, those who have learned to read and write, those who have become proficient in handicrafts, there has been no manifestation of an ability to form their fellows into any movement for organized improvement. True, such organizations it is equally

truth of others of a harmful sort. The same people who lament the probability of a new column devoted to the "colored people" of the South, boast of the absence of any trouble between the negroes and the whites, and of being able to get along with no general disturbances, though they are, it is true, many local troubles, but which must not be taken as any sign of a general uprising. The most serious danger to the negroes is that the white picknickers are not given respect of rights as citizens. In these cases, few negroes, at times, make a stand and are left feeling desperate. It is true that the "dead bodies strewn on the field" are all black, as turned out in the "war" case in the Brookline, but that particular disturbance had a week several columns of space daily in the Southern papers, and the negroes of the South got in its work, and the better class of Brookline County citizens themselves testified to its truth.

The negroes in the South are too poor to prove

themselves. I wish to, and they are far, even if they wished to, choose the happy and indolent way to the path of a "race war." Therefore, the clear-headed man realizes that the negroes are proverbially timid and cowardly, that they cannot organize or lead the masses, and that they are too indolent by nature to resist the dominant white man and too poor to provide weapons for a struggle. When he reflects also on the fact that the negroes are not numerous in all the thirty years of expectancy and prophesy of such a dread conflict, he reasonably concludes that it never will occur.

Atlanta, Ga., Aug. 25, 1885. A. C. W.

FREE LIBRARIES IN AMERICA.

SCOTLAND HAS NOTHING TO BOAST OF IN COMPARISON WITH THIS COUNTRY.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: Where can your correspondent I. N. F. have lived during the last quarter century that he could write for American readers such a manifest error as this last Tuesday's Tribune:

The American objector will probably regard the municipal libraries of Scotland as outside the scope of a local government. The "millionaires and philanthropists," he will say, "provide the luxuries of this kind."

In regard to his comparison of American with Scotch library interests let me quote from a letter written so long ago as 1877 by a Scotchman to the "American Library Journal." The letter begins:

I shall be glad to know if there are any of your libraries in America supported by a special assessment of the people.

After describing various applications of the Free Libraries act in England and giving, as does L. F., the limit applicable to libraries from the tax to be one penny in the pound, he goes on:

I regret to say that we have not been so successful in Scotland . . . I think there are only three or four libraries established under the act in Scotland!

The writer of the letter, David Sandeman, went on to state that the Free Libraries Act of 1842 was the fact that Glasgow had then recently declined to avail herself of the Free Libraries act, as Edinburgh had also previously done.

So much for Scotland in 1857. What about America at that time? In 1857, fifteen States of the Union

had passed laws enabling towns and cities with their borders to use a portion of the taxes levied for the support of free public libraries. 188 such libraries had been started under these laws. Ten of these fifteen States made some ratio of money to dollars, limiting the amount that could be levied to a certain number of cents "many in the pound," five (and among them Texas) put no limit, "I have never seen reason to do so."

There have not at hand statistics giving the exact number of free-support libraries now existing, but as seventeen more States, making twenty-nine in all, were last year reported to have adopted such laws, it is probable that the number of such libraries than had the whole United States 1867. It may be inferred that the laws are not mere dead-letters. That in twenty-nine States the average

to be provided by millionaires may be deduced from the fact that town after town availed itself of the granted permission and in many cases without a building and with no fund from a source but the money voted from taxes, public money had been started. There have been 100 educators of the people, implementing and supporting the public schools. ANNIE B. JACKSON North Adams, Mass., August 27, 1885.

THE OFFENDERS AT ROCK SPRINGS.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: Please allow me to state through the columns of your valuable paper, with regard to the assertion made to your reporter by the Chinese representative in New-York that the Americans cut and shot down the Chinese at Rock Springs, Wyo., 1885, that I have been endeavoring to find out if only three United States citizens were implicated and only one of them was a native of the United States, as shown by the investigation of the title.

J. B. HOUGHTON
Lander, Wyo., August 29, 1886.

When Baby was sick, we gave her Castoria.
When she was a Child, she cried for Castoria.
When she became Miss, she clung to Castoria.
When she had Children, she gave them Castoria.